Steps for medical research:

1. Conduct a literature review and identify the gaps
2. Talk to other researchers and build collaborations if appropriate
3. What is the specific research question to be answered?
4. What is the study aim and objectives?
5. Who are the target study population? What sample do you have available? Inclusion/Exclusion criteria?
6. What are the units of analysis?
7. What is the type of study?
8. What are the primary and secondary outcome measures?
9. How would you potentially interpret the outcomes? Are there possible alternate explanations?
10. Patient safety and withdrawal
11. Calculate sample size (if required)
12. Statistical analysis plan
13. Put these pieces together into a research proposal
14. Apply for ethics
15. Data collection, management and cleaning
16. Statistical analysis, interpretation and presentation of results
17. Preparation of manuscript and publication